

Dear C.S Venkatakrishnan (Barclays), Noel Quinn (HSBC), Hector Grisi Checa (Santander), Paul Thwaite (NatWest), Charlie Nunn (Lloyds),

We, the undersigned, express our deep concerns over the financial activities of the five biggest UK high-street banks - Barclays, HSBC, Santander, NatWest and Lloyds.

Banks play an important role in society, from providing institutions like ourselves with services to investing in our economy. You hold immense influence and responsibility. However, we believe your financing practices represent a contradiction to our values as faith-based institutions.

The earth - our common home - should be cherished and safeguarded. As Christians, we understand that “the earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it” (Psalm 24:1). We are called to act justly with the resources we steward and to care for Creation.

Recognising our own role in contributing to the climate crisis, we are striving to reduce our carbon emissions, educate our communities and champion positive climate action to bring about a fairer, greener future. This includes paying attention to where we bank.

Collectively, you have provided \$556 billion to fossil fuels since the Paris agreement, including \$268 billion to companies involved in fossil fuel expansion. The expansion of oil and gas is incompatible with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, according to the UN, the International Energy Agency and thousands of leading climate scientists.

The fossil fuel industry and the climate crisis not only threaten the future of the planet we love, but they also threaten the present, especially the lives of our neighbours in frontline communities and the global south. In the past few years, we have seen an increase in extreme weather events, from heatwaves to floods. The trend is set to continue and conditions to deteriorate. Vulnerable communities are already suffering from the effects of global heating; we cannot stand by and allow the crisis to worsen.

We look to create a hopeful future, one that is just, fair and kind, for everyone, our children and those who will come after us; we expect our financial institutions to do the same. This future cannot include the financing of fossil fuels and environmental degradation, or the facilitating of human rights abuses, health crises and atrocities across the globe.

Increasingly, organisations are wanting to align their choice of financial services provider to their values. In the last year, we have seen institutions challenge their banking providers, including major charities such as Christian Aid and Oxfam, a

coalition of more than 20 universities led by Cambridge, as well as UK health institutions and several, trail-blazing churches. We are encouraged by these institutions to take this action, continuing the long tradition of Christian institutions standing for justice.

In light of the above concerns, we call on you all to urgently do the following:

1. End new finance or financial services to potential new clients involved in fossil fuel expansion.
2. Put existing fossil fuel clients on notice that they must end fossil fuel expansion or risk losing financing and financial services.
3. If existing clients fail to end their expansion plans in the short term, banks should exit those relationships.

As long as these demands are unmet, we will continue to publicly voice our concern and explore other banking options wherever possible. We encourage those of all faiths and none to join us in calling for a better financial sector that aligns with our values, protecting our future, our planet and communities worldwide. We hope that this statement is a step along the way to a just, fair financial system that works for all.

This statement remains open to signatories so that Christian institutions, from any denomination, can voice their support for a better, safer future.

Co-authored by: JustMoney Movement, Make My Money Matter, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Christian Climate Action, Laudato Si' Movement and Bank Better.

The undersigned:

The Methodist Church in Britain
Scottish Episcopal Church College of Bishops
Scottish Episcopal Church Provincial Environment Group
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain
Undeb yr Annibynwyr Cymraeg/Union of Welsh Independents (Congregational)
The Free Church of England
Religious of the Assumption (English Territory)
Sisters of St Joseph of Peace
Missionary Sisters of St Columban (Columban Sisters)
Missionary Society of St Columban (Columban Fathers)
Daughters of the Holy Spirit
Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux
Congregation of Our Lady, Canonesses of St Augustine - UK
English Province of the Union of Presentation Sisters

SCIAF

Green Christian
Operation Noah
National Justice and Peace Network
Justice & Peace Scotland (Scottish Catholic Justice and Peace Commission)
Eco-congregation Scotland
Faith for the Climate
Iona Community
USPG
Fellowship of Reconciliation (England and Scotland)
Student Christian Movement
Roots for Churches Ltd
Just Love

Newcastle Upon Tyne District, The Methodist Church
Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church
Northampton Methodist District
Darlington Methodist District
Yorkshire West Methodist District
Wales Synod Cymru, The Methodist Church
Bristol Methodist District
Eastern Baptist Association

South East Scotland Area Quaker Meeting
North Wales Area Quaker Meeting
Mid-Wales Area Quaker Meeting
Bristol Quakers (Bristol Area Quaker Meeting)
Sheffield and Balby Area Quaker Meeting
Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meeting
Nottingham and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting
Northumbria Area Quaker Meeting
Southern Marches Area Quaker Meeting
Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting

Churches Together in South London
Methodist Central Hall, Manchester
Nuneaton Methodist Church
Carey Baptist Church, Hemel Hempstead
St Brandon's Church, Brancepeth, Durham
Parish Church Ilfracombe
St Mary's Church, Walthamstow
St Bartholomew's Benefice
St Christopher's Springfield
All Saints Church Breadsall and St Matthew's Morley and St John the Baptist Smalley
All Hallows Leeds
St Thomas' Church, Lancaster
St Gabriel's Church, Aldersbrook
St John's Church, Ben Rhydding
St Joseph's Catholic Church, Tewkesbury

St Joseph RC Church, Chalfont St Peter
Ledbury Methodist Church
Latymer Community Church
The C3 Church
Beeston Quakers
Wanstead Local Quaker Meeting
All Saints Kingston Eco-Church Group
Dundee Law Parish Church
Parish of Freshford with Limpley Stoke and Hinton Charterhouse
St John the Evangelist, Killingworth
St Martin's Church, Liskeard